

NANTYGLO & BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of District.	3,862 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of population - 1941	12,440.
1940	12,280.
1939	11,610.
1938	11,590.
1931	13,190.
Number of Inhabited Houses.	3,053.
Number of Families.	3,326.
Rateable Value.	£31,147.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£105.

Vital Statistics.

Number of Births.	204.
Number of Legitimate Births.	Males 103 Females 98.
Number of Illegitimate Births.	" 2 "
Birth rate per 1,000 of Population.	16.4.
Birth rate per 1,000 Monmouth County.	16.7.
Birth rate per 1,000 England & Wales.	14.2.
Number of Still Births.	10.
Still Births rate per 1,000 of population.	0.80.
Still birth rate per 1,000 Monmouth County.	0.74.
Still birth rate per 1,000 England & Wales.	0.51.
Number of Deaths - Males 84 - Females 68 -	152.
Death rate per 1,000 of population.	12.21.
Death rate per 1,000 Monmouth County.	12.11.
Death rate per 1,000 England & Wales.	12.9.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(a) Puerperal Sepsis 0; Other Puerperal causes 0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 2.

Death rate of Infants under 1 Year.

Year	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Number of Deaths under 1 year.	19	11	16	17	9	12	11	24	18	20
Number of Births.	204	189	191	167	164	182	196	202	202	233
Infantile Mortality Rate.	93.1	58.2	83.7	101.8	55.51	63.9	56.1	118.8	89.1	85.8

Particulars of Deaths of Children under 1 Year.

Under 1 week -	6	1 to 3 months -	5
1-2 " -	1	3 to 6 " -	1
2-3 " -	3	6 to 9 " -	1
3-4 " -	0	9 to 12 " -	2
Total under 1 month	10		9
Total under 1 year -	19.		

Total number of Births	204.
Total number of Deaths under 1 year	19.
Death rate per 1,000 Births.	93.1.
Death rate per 1,000 Births Monmouth County	70.4.
Death rate per 1,000 Births England & Wales.	59.0.

Social Conditions.

The District which is a Coal mining one is situated at the Northern end of the County of Monmouth.

On the West it is bounded by the Ebbw Vale Urban District on the South by the Abertillery Urban District and on the North by the Brynmayr Urban District.

Coal mining is the only industry.

As a result of the war the unemployment figures are considerably reduced.

At the end of the year the total number of unemployed men, women and boys was under 50.

SECTION B.

i. General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

The Public Health staff engaged by the Council are myself as part-time Medical Officer of Health and a wholetime Sanitary Inspector who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. One half of the salaries are paid by the County Council.

Owing to the many extraneous duties resulting from the War which have been undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector, it has been impossible to keep pace with the normal work.

It is very necessary that an assistant Sanitary Inspector should be appointed.

ii. Laboratory Facilities.

a. Facilities are provided by the County Authority for the examination of Pathological specimens and for the bacteriological and general examination of water, milk, and food stuffs.

b. Ambulance Facilities.

The Public Health Authority has no ambulance facilities. The only ambulance in the district is the property of the Blaenau and District Hospital.

c. Nursing in the Home.

There are three midwives practising in the area who were appointed by the County Council under the Midwives Act 1936.

There is a District Nursing Association at Blaenau affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing

A Nurse attached to the Institute is employed by the Association.

There is a similar Nursing Association at Nantyglo affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association.

The expenses of maintenance of the nurses and necessary equipment is met by voluntary contribution.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals administered by the Local Authority. Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and all other infectious diseases are treated in the home with the exception of Typhoid Fever, Small Pox and Cerebro Spinal Fever. These latter infectious diseases are treated in whichever neighbouring Isolation Hospital happens to have a vacant bed at the time of need.

There are a certain number of beds available at the Public Assistance Institute, Ty-Bryn, Tredegar.

The Maternity Hospital at Llanfrechfa Grange is provided for evacuee expectant mothers. A certain number of other cases may be taken where the home conditions are unsuitable.

The Lydia Beynon Maternity Home provides for abnormal maternity cases.

Clinics & Treatment Centres:

There are two maternity and child welfare centres, one at Blaina held on Fridays and one at Nantyglo held on Mondays.

An anti natal clinic is also held.

Orthopaedic cases are referred to the County Medical Officer who recommends them to the Orthopaedic clinic which is held at Newport the last Friday of each month.

The nearest treatment centre for Venereal Diseases is at the Royal Gwent Hospital Newport.

The Tuberculosis Clinic conducted by the Welsh National Memorial Association is held at No.18 Abertillery Road, Blaina, the second Wednesday in each month.

Patients who are too ill to attend may be visited in the house.

Surgical Tuberculosis cases are referred from the Blaina clinic to a clinic held at Pontllanfraith monthly.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied by the Council for the use of medical practitioners when needed.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply:

The water is good and the supply is generally satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Drainage and Sewerage is on the water carriage system.

The subsidiary sewers are connected up with the Western Valley (Mon) Main Trunk Sewer which discharges into the sea at low water west of the mouth of the Usk.

No new Sewerage schemes have been undertaken during the year.

There is still need for further arching-in of the river at several places, more particularly at the Northern end.

The Coalbrookvale area and North of Nantyglo station are the places most urgently in need of attention.

Closet accommodation.

There were no conversions from conservancy system during the year.

Of the 3,000 houses in the district 450 are fitted with flush tanks, the remainder are hand flushed.

Tents, Vans & Sheds.

There has been no trouble in connection with tents, vans or sheds during 1941.

Public Cleansing.

In the Blaina District 1,652 houses are visited during Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the collection of refuse each week, 1201 houses are visited Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at Nantyglo each week. In addition if time permits street sweepings are picked up and also the heaps which have accumulated in unauthorised places. This latter practice is better, but still leaves room for improvement in many areas. Where dumping of refuse still exists the heaps must be cleared up, and every effort made to find those guilty of this disfiguring of our town and endangering the health of the community.

Warnings are continually being posted.

This practice of depositing refuse in heaps is much more prevalent in Nantyglo and here the difficulties of collecting are greater.

The situation of the houses necessitates a greater amount of backing and turning which takes up a good deal of time. We estimate that the quantity of house refuse picked up daily is between twenty-two and twenty-five tons.

On personal supervision we find our present arrangements are best for our district and with wholehearted co-operation would be quite satisfactory.

Cleanliness in the Home.

This is generally satisfactory, but there are still homes where there is need for much improvement.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary conditions and water supply of the Secondary and Elementary schools are satisfactory.

No Rag Flock is made or sold in the area. The Marine Stores are inspected periodically.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.
 - (1)(a) Total number of houses inspected. 310.
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 310.
 - (2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. 60.
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 60.
 - (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious ^{to health} as to be unfit for habitation. 150.
 - (4) Number of houses (excluding those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 25.
2. (a) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notice. 10.
- (b) Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action. 15.
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year
 - (a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936. None.
 - (b) Under other Public Health Acts.
 - (1) Number of Houses in respect of which notices were served. 30.
 - (2) Number in which defects were remedied.
 - (a) By owners. 28.
 - (b) By Local authorities. None.
 - (c) (1) Number of Houses in respect of which demolition orders were served. None.
 - (2) Number demolished. None.
 - (3) Number of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. None.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Following the cases of Typhoid in September, water samples were taken from River Row Blaina, Brynteg Blaina and Queen Street Blaina.

No samples of milk have been examined this year.

Meat and other Foods.

No slaughtering was done at the local slaughter houses.

All slaughtering is now done at the Central Depot at Brynmawr.

Meat Food seized and destroyed during the year was as follows:

Pigs Fry.	29 lbs.	Tongue	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Beef	132 lbs.
Corned Beef.	24 lbs.	Butter	4 lbs.	Fruit	22 lbs. (10 tins).
				Ham	82 lbs.

SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Again this year the greatest number of deaths have resulted from Heart Disease.

Malignant disease and Bronchitis are the next highest.

Early in the year the Ministry of Health urged all local authorities to make arrangements for all children up to the age of 14 to be given the opportunity to be immunised against Diphtheria.

They stated that the immunisation of 90% of the children was necessary to prevent large scale epidemics.

As a result of repeated appeals being made to this district 60% of the local children between the ages of 5 and 15 years have been immunised at the cost of £45 to the Council.

The total number of children immunised was 1,202 local children and 232 evacuated children. Valuable help was given by your Sanitary Inspector and some members of the Women's Ambulance Brigade.

As a result of the comparative freedom from bombing a great number of evacuated children have returned home.

At the end of the year there were present in our district 515 unaccompanied children, 201 accompanied children, 121 mothers and 63 other adults.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to your Clerk, Mr.G.Roy Jenkins, your Financial Officer, Mr.E.J.Holt and your Sanitary Officer, Mr.W.T.Angell, for their courtesy and continued help during the year.

FLORANCE M. WALLEN-GUNN,.

Medical Officer of Health.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

CAUSES	Under 1 Yr	1-2 Years	2-3 "	3-4 "	4-5 "	5-10 "	10-15 "	15-20 "	20-35 "	35-45 "	45-65 "	65 & Over	Male	Females	TOTAL
TUBERCULOSIS (Resp.System)								1	2	1	2		2	4	6
TUBERCULOSIS (Other Forms)									1	1			2	-	2
INFLUENZA						1					1	3	2	3	5
CANCER									1	3	3	8	12	3	25
DIABETES											1	1	-	2	2
HEART DISEASE											8	33	26	15	41
CEREBRAL HAEMORRHAGE											2	10	6	6	12
BRONCHITIS	3	1		1			1				5	6	9	8	17
PNEUMONIA	5	1									2	2	8	2	10
DIARRHOEA (Under 2 years)	2												-	2	2
OTHER DIGESTIVE DISEASES												4	2	2	4
NEPHRITIS											4	3	3	4	7
PREMATURE BIRTH	2												2	-	2
CONGENITAL DISEASES	3												1	2	3
VIOLENT DEATHS	1		1	1							2	1	2	2	6
OTHER CAUSES	3							2	1			2	5	3	8
<u>TOTALS</u>	19	2	1	2	0	1	1	3	5	5	4	7	38	46	152

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP.

DISEASES	CASES												TOTAL	DEATHS										TOTAL	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.		
	Under 1 Year	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	4-5 Years	5-10 Years	10-15 Years	15-20 Years	20-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-65 Years	65 & over		Under 1 Year	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	4-5 Years	5-10 Years	10-15 Years	15-20 Years	20-35 Years	35-45 Years			45-65 Years	65 & Over
MEASLES	8	18	24	30	36	12	7	1					245														
WHOOPING COUGH	3	3	12	7	15	13							53														
PNEUMONIA	4	4	6			1			2	1	12	3	33	5	1									2	2	10	
SCARLET FEVER			1			6	3						10														
DIPHTHERIA				1		4	8	4					17														
ENTERIC FEVER						1		1					2														2
CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER							1						1														1
PUERPERAL PYREXIA									1	1			2														2
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	1												1														
ERYSIPELAS											2	1	3														
TUBERCULOSIS (Pul.								4	5	4			13														
(Non.P.	1							1	1				3														
	16	26	43	38	51	14	19	11	10	2	18	4	383	5	1									2	2	10	

YEAR 1941
ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING
TO DISTRICTS & WARDS.

DISEASE	DISTRICTS.		TOTAL	WARDS.			TOTAL	
	NANTYGLO.	BLAINA.		NORTH.	CENTRAL.	SOUTH.		
MEASLES	62	183	245	46	94	105	245	
WHOOPING COUGH	37	16	53	34	10	9	53	
PNEUMONIA	18	15	33	16	9	8	33	
SCARLET FEVER	3	7	10	3	5	2	10	
DIPHTHERIA	3	14	17	3	3	11	17	
ENTERIC FEVER	-	2	2	-	1	1	2	
CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	2	-	2	2	-	-	2	
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	
ERYSIPELAS	2	1	3	-	3	-	3	
TUBERCULOSIS	(PUL.	8	5	13	7	4	2	13
	(NON PUL.	0	3	3	-	3	-	3
	136	247	383	112	132	139	383	

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 Years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 to 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 "	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 "	2	-	4	-	1	-	2	-
35 to 45 "	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
45 to 55 "	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 to 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	5	5	2	2	2	2	1

